

House Resolution No. 1426

Whereas, it is with heavy hearts that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge the significant achievements of a life gone by, that of Mary Ross, who passed to her eternal reward on March 31, 2004; and

Whereas, Mary Ross came into this world in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and moved to St. Louis after her graduation from high school; and

Whereas, in 1954, Mary Ross embarked upon a new and exciting chapter in her life when she married her beloved Otto Ross, a kind and loving gentleman with whom she shared the love and affection of seven fine children; and

Whereas, Mary Ross played an integral role in the educational development of countless Missouri youngsters as a teacher in the City's Head Start program, following which she ran for alderman of the City of St. Louis in 1977; and

Whereas, a candidate in the Democratic primary for Missouri lieutenant governor in 1992, Mary Ross served five terms as alderman of the 5th Ward from 1977 until 1997, during which time she served as chairwoman of the aldermanic black caucus from 1985 to 1986; opposed efforts to store radioactive waste at Lambert Field; worked to obtain jobs for residents on municipal construction projects; and supported gun control; and

Whereas, a devout member of St. Nicholas Parish who was a mentor and adviser to Representative Rodney H. Hubbard of the 58th District, Mary Ross leaves behind to cherish her memory her seven children, Marcie Ross, Brenda Ross, Stephanie Ross, and Otto Ross, Jr., all of St. Louis, Marie Arthur of Florissant, and Melvin Ross and John Ross, both of St. Paul, Minnesota; her three sisters, Betty Long, Delores Brown, and Cozetta Vernell, all of St. Louis; her seventeen grandchildren; and her nine great-grandchildren:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in paying final tribute to Mary Ross, a remarkable woman and dedicated public servant who will be sadly missed by all those who had the distinct pleasure of knowing and loving her; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the loved ones of the late Mary Ross, as an expression of our deepest sympathy.

Offered by _____
Representative Rodney R. Hubbard
District No. 58

Representative Betty L. Thompson
District No. 72

Representative Theodore Hoskins
District No. 80

Representative Amber (Holly) Boykins
District No. 60

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2428, adopted April 2, 2004.

